
**Minutes
Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns
August 3, 2015**

Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Monday, August 3, 2015, 6:30 P.M. at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural road, 2nd Floor Boardroom, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

MEMBERS Present:

Chair Irene Mochel
Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz
Rachel Phillips
Diane Moran, by phone
Kim W. Fisher
Ben Campbell

MEMBERS Absent:

Jeff Oats
Tom Ringhofer

Guests:

Stephanie Deitrick, Tempe Enterprise GIS Manager
Sean Collins, ASU GIS Program Developer

Diversity Staff Present:

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Chair Irene Mochel called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Public Appearances

No members of the public requested to speak.

Agenda Item 1 - Consideration of Minutes: MCDC – July 6, 2015 Minutes

The July 6, 2015 MCDC Minutes were APPROVED, with corrections.

Motion: **Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz.**

Second: **Commissioner Ben Campbell.** Motion carried.

Agenda Item 2 - Access Tempe Website Draft Presentation - ASU Team – Masters GIS Program Developers: Kadeem Reynolds, Christian Whitehead and Sean Collins. Future Goals of the Commission Chair Irene Mochel

Stephanie Deitrick, Tempe Enterprise GIS Manager and ASU Masters GIS Program Developer Sean Collins presented the first draft of the webpage being developed to update the 2009 “*Access Tempe*” information.

The GIS is Geographical Information System which would show the information in a map form, similar to “Google Maps.” Where the site shows a map of where you are and the information available about your surroundings.

We want to include the city profile: bus stops, parks, city services and the like in this format. So if you are in downtown Tempe you can find where the accessible bus stops are, city services, accessible housing locations, ADA elements that may be of interest, etc.

It's a learning process we are going through and we are going to be building it as we go along. The end result will not be available for approximately 18 months, around Spring of 2017, as information will be needed to be incorporated for functionality and we want to put out a challenge to developers to make it better.

The transit information popup information at each of the bus stops includes the route, time of next available bus and other information provided via Valley Metro. It will allow you to link to the Valley Metro information and phone numbers as well.

We want to incorporate GIS information available from others such as Tempe Community Council, Downtown Tempe, etc.

The site will include information already available via GIS, which can include information on accessible parking locations, accessible bus stops with data through Valley Metro. We hope to include information on ASU access as well.

It will include information that can be of use on mobile devices, laptops, and computers. It is scalable. We also tested it to ensure it is compatible with screen readers for people who have blindness or low vision.

It will include information that will be made available via GIS from the ADA Transition Plan process, which is just beginning. Some of that information will be available next year.

The demonstration provided showed how the site is intended to work. There were many questions relating to the website's appearance, functionality, purpose and usability. Some are summarized here.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips asked if businesses could be added or contacted to add information. The retail and hotels will be included by way of www.BrettApproved.com site. We are working to see if we can incorporate their GIS information into our site, but that is still under discussion. We are taking baby steps at this point and city information needs to be the first priority. The amount of time it takes to enter the information is tremendous and while we want to do that, the city of Tempe information has a higher priority.

Commissioners Rachel Phillips asked if by ADA accessible bus stops, which she thought had a shelter and/or lights. ADA doesn't require shelter or lights for compliance. However, it's possible that they have a shelter or shade and that will be indicated if the information is available via Valley Metro data or the ADA Transition Plan data. Staff indicated that the ADA Transition Plan will be including shade information in its review. An area of difficulty has to do with Orbit stops because they are not all fixed locations. We haven't decided how to address that yet.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips asked if it has accessible parking spaces available in Tempe. It will have that information, which is already available on the Downtown Tempe website, but we will not be able to tell you if that parking space is vacant or not.

Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz requested if there would be any data available on agencies that serve children with disabilities. That is something that can be included, it will take some time. Chair Bennewitz recommended that Kate at Tempe Community Council be contacted as they have that information. Many people go through them for financial assistance and other agency supports and they have that information. We can also include TCC as a link so people can go to them directly.

Staff asked about what type of data is needed? We need name and address to start with. Then we can go get the GIS coordinates for the map as far as location is concerned. Some of the difficulty we face is identifying accessible elements within a site. So if you want to know where an accessible playground is in a park we have to create the GIS coordinates for that playground and its related elements that apply. That is new information that has to be created; we cannot just import it, as it doesn't exist yet. This takes time.

Staff asked if whether data being gathered right now on agencies to serve people who are blind or have low vision could be added as a category. Yes it can, we just have to create the category and obtain the information.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips said you still have to know about the businesses to put them on there, though. The idea is to provide information they can get to, so if they have a website, we can link them to it.

The information is built in layers, with different information on each layer, i.e. wheelchair accessibility may be one layer; if you have other information on agencies that serve people who are blind, that would be another layer. Staff indicated that identifying disability or accessible services would be part of her responsibility, just as she is identifying agencies that serve people who are blind, at this time, for the White Cane Day Resource Fair.

One difficulty is bringing the information needed forward on a handheld device, its size limits what is easily viewable and you don't want them to have to go down too many layers to get what they need and it has to be quickly accessed. But we want to know what you want to see.

Commissioner Kim Fisher asked if it could be more useful to non-readers. With screen readers, that functionality may be available. GIS is inherently visual with less text.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips said we are one of the best cities so it's great we are going to do this!

Agenda Item 3 – White Cane Day – Chair Irene Mochel (Was taken out of order to facilitate a tour of the location)

Updated details for the White Cane Day were discussed prior to the Commission meeting as it is an event that is being coordinated by the Diversity Department. The commission will conduct a tour of the site.

The current results discussed during the tour include:

- The vendor contact list contains approximately 40 vendors providing services to increase the independence of people who have blindness or low vision.
- The marketing mailer for distribution will be completed taking in account CDC's recommended edits; 2200 will be printed; taken to Foundation for Blind Children for application of the Braille overlay and then mailed to the updated Diversity Department mailing list which is the same list used for the Disability Awards and many other events the department hosts. Approximately 200 will be available for distribution at various locations.
- Six vendors have already confirmed in writing with five more pending verbally: Confirmed: Aspire Arizona, Low Vision Plus, Sun Sounds, Arizona Technology Assistance Program (AzTAP) Talking Book Library and Blinded Veterans Association.

- The layout for the two rooms for the event was reviewed with commissioners. Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz suggested an optional layout which will be considered. Discussion was held on ways to address the odd layout of the lower level lobby because it is not a rectangular space and the carpet has odd shapes, all of which can be confusing when attempting to find your way. The best way seemed to be to have vendors or place tables or stanchions from the elevator to the door. Elevator needs a sign to make it obvious, as its hidden very well.
- We are still looking for someone to do the training component of the event. Additionally the Library would like to have the training offered to their staff prior to the event so their staff is prepared. This will be arranged in 4 separate sessions spanning two shifts so Library staff can rotate through it.

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe ADA Transition Plan - Commissioner Bennewitz

Commissioner Paul Bennewitz reported that the next step is a Kick Off meeting to discuss the process, information needed and timeline is scheduled for August 5, 2015. The meeting will be with Cole and Associates, Accessology and city department representatives.

Agenda Item 5 – Tempe Public Restroom Signage – Staff Michele Stokes

(Item deferred until next month.)

Agenda Item 6 –Commissioner and Staff's Announcements

Chair Irene Mochel announced that Commissioner Sarah Kader has resigned as she is no longer able to attend the meetings due to her employment responsibilities. We will miss her.

Vice Chair Paul Bennewitz requested that Disability Employment be added to the next month's agenda and requested staff to see if information is available on how

Tempe employs people with disabilities, has volunteers with disabilities and what employment resources exist for Tempe residents with disabilities. Can someone from the city present to the Commission on this from Human Resources. We are looking at the 25th Anniversary of the ADA and he would like to see this included somehow in the ADA Transition Plan or efforts. If we don't have the information we should be collecting it on a quarterly basis or the like. Staff said she would explore this.

Chair Irene Mochel said that employers don't always look at ability and this makes it difficult. They look at the disability instead of the ability. And we need to see what we can do about this. Chair Irene Mochel said that employers need help seeing the ability and value of hiring people with disabilities.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips requested that Commission minutes and documents be sent to her via email sans attachments as her device doesn't support attachments. Staff will place attachment information in the body email itself.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips requested that information on Arizona Bridge to Independent Living events or other upcoming events and activities should be included in our packets. ABIL is hosting a Social Security Ticket to Work consultation and the information is available on the ABIL website.

Chair Irene Mochel brought up the ADA Conference that is coming up at the end of the month. Staff will send you information.

The September meeting will be moved from the 1st Monday to the 2nd Monday, September 14, 2015 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

New Commissioners will be receiving an invitation to meet with the Diversity Director Rosa Inchausti in the next couple weeks.

Commissioner Rachel Phillips requested that information from disability agencies like ABIL on events and activities be included in the monthly packets.

Formal Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with tour following.
Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Rachel Phillips

Seconded: Commissioner Ben Campbell

Prepared by: Michele Stokes

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Director